



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Law and Order Committee receives report regarding the Judicial/Public Safety Complex Priority Listing**

**CROWNPOINT, NM** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from director of the Navajo Nation Judicial Administration Edward Martin, regarding the Judicial/Public Safety Complex Priority Listing.

The discussion focused on Legislation No. 0083-13 sponsored by Council Delegate Alton Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat), aiming to expand the judicial/public safety facilities priority listing from five to ten.

On Mar. 26, the Budget and Finance Committee considered and tabled Legislation No. 0083-13, until a listing of locations was finalized.

The Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Fund receives 25 percent of its revenue from the Navajo Sales Tax to construct new facilities, such as the newly constructed judicial/public safety complexes in Tuba City and Crownpoint.

Originally, the priority listing consisted of five locations including Chinle, Shiprock, Fort Defiance, Pinon, and Dilkon.

LOC members recommended the addition of five locations to include Aneth, Ramah, Kayenta, Alamo, and Pueblo Pintado, pending approval from Chief Justice Herb Yazzie and Public Safety Division Director John Billison.

Chief Justice Yazzie and Billison signed off on the initial agreement. However, when the agreement was amended to add five additional locations, Billison's signature was absent, according to Exhibit A of the legislation.

LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Whitecone) expressed support and advocated for his community of Dilkon.

"They still have to transport their prisoners all the way to Window Rock," said Council Delegate Elmer Begay, explaining the need for additional sites to alleviate detainment and transportation issues in Dilkon.

LOC vice-chair Delegate Shepherd explained that the added five locations would allow chapters the opportunity to advocate for funding, pointing out that funding agencies often request a priority listing. It would illustrate the need and optimal focus the NN is taking on these prioritized projects, thus attracting outside resources, said Delegate Shepherd.

“They have received the appropriate resolutions and clearances to go forward with this project, but they have run out of funding to complete construction,” Martin said.

The Kayenta judicial complex is currently under construction, and has made preparations for the construction of a police station and corrections facility, Martin added.

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC members agreed that the expansion of the list would be beneficial to the Public Safety Division and surrounding communities.

The LOC voted 3-0 to accept the report.

On Tuesday, the BFC voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0083-13, including two amendments to expand the priority list from seven to ten sites, and moving Ramah to the top of the list.

The BFC is the final authority for this legislation.

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